

TWENTY-SEVENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

TO THE

TODMORDEN

Rural District Council,

BY

J. LAWSON, B.A., M.B.,

UNIV. DUB.

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**PRESENTED 8th MARCH, 1905.**

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# Todmorden Rural District Council.

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HEBDEN BRIDGE, 25th FEBRUARY, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1904.

I estimate your population, to the middle of the year, to be 5,800 ; an increase of 100 over 1903.

The births registered have been 109, viz., 57 males and 52 females, seven of which were illegitimate ; equal to an annual birth-rate of 18·7 per 1,000. The number of births registered and rate for the year 1903 were respectively 115 and 20·1 per 1,000 ; and the average birth-rate for the preceding ten years (1894 to 1903) was 22·2 per 1,000.

The deaths recorded have been 66, viz., 27 males and 39 females, one of which is uncertified ; yielding an annual death-rate of 11·3 per 1,000. I have to add seven other deaths, viz., 4 males and 3 females, residents of your district, who died away from home in public institutions. These make the total number of deaths 73, and the nett death-rate for the year 12·5 per 1,000. The nett deaths and death-rate for the previous year were respectively 103 and 18·0 per 1,000, and the average deaths and death-rate for the preceding ten years, respectively, 78 and 15·3 per 1,000. Nine of the 73 deaths, were in children under one year of age, making an infant mortality of 82·5 per 1,000, against an infant mortality of 173·9 per 1,000 for the previous year. The old age deaths, or deaths of persons 65 years and upwards, were 23, compared with 30 for the preceding year. Coroners' enquiries were held in six cases of sudden or violent death. Twelve deaths have arisen from the principal zymotic or infectious diseases ;

giving a zymotic death-rate of 2·0 per 1,000, against a zymotic death-rate for 1903 of 1·9 per 1,000. The deaths from these diseases have been, 7 from Whooping Cough, 3 from Scarlet Fever, and 2 from Typhoid Fever. The remaining deaths are below the average. Ten have arisen from Lung Affections, 6 from Phthisis, 4 from Cancer, and 4 from Heart Diseases.

The vital statistics of the Rural District for 1904 are as follows: Birth-rate, 18·7 per 1,000, lower than last year; Infant Mortality, 82·5 per 1,000, lowest for ten years; zymotic death-rate, 2·0 per 1,000, one of the highest on record, mainly owing to seven deaths from Whooping Cough; and a general death-rate of 12·5 per 1,000, the lowest recorded in ten years, with one exception.

The infectious diseases reported under the "Notification Act" have been 79, in comparison with 120 for the year 1903. They include 14 from Smallpox, 44 from Scarlet Fever, 17 from Typhoid Fever, 1 from Continued Fever, and 3 from Erysipelas. Fifty-one of these patients were treated in hospital—14 Smallpox cases at Sourhall, 20 Scarlet and 17 Typhoid Fever at the Fielden Hospital.

Smallpox broke out on the 14th February, in the Parish of Blackshaw, being contracted in a Clothing Factory in Hebden Bridge. Other cases followed in Heptonstall and Erringden. The disease was generally mild. All recovered, the last case occurring on the 4th May.

Scarlet Fever has been prevalent all over your district. The number of cases notified are about half less than they were in 1903. Three deaths have resulted. No schools have been closed in consequence. The Hospital accommodation for isolation of Scarlatina cases has been restricted as you are aware, owing to the continued prevalence of this disease amongst adjoining Authorities, who have the use of the Fielden Hospital in combination with yourselves.



Typhoid Fever has had an unusual prevalence during the year, 17 cases being reported. It is a remarkable fact that no case of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Rural District during the year 1903. These 17 cases were not confined to one district, but were located in Erringden, Wadsworth, Blackshaw and Heptonstall ; in the latter, as already reported, a special outbreak took place in connection with Colden Board School. Two deaths occurred in the Fielden Hospital, out of the 17 patients sent there. In a very large proportion of these cases, I put down impure water as the original cause of the illness. Water supplies in a Rural District, such as yours, are so numerous and so frequently open to pollution from manured lands and surface drainage that it is a question of great difficulty for any Sanitary Authority to deal with. These water supplies vary much in character ; some are situated in open wells in the fields, in recesses two and three feet deep, which are no better than catch-pits for any sewage or drainage that is disposed of on the lands above. Water of this description can be made comparatively safe, for drinking purposes, if it is stored in stone troughs, raised above the surface of the surrounding ground, and covered on the top. This water could be drawn from the lower side of the trough, or cistern, by means of an opening, in the form of a vent or tap, and all water, for domestic use, coming into such receptacles, should be conveyed in iron or pot pipes. Water running in the old type of stone drain is liable to pollution from the subsoil, and is rarely or ever quite safe. I attribute this exceptional prevalence of Typhoid Fever in your district, to the comparatively dry season of 1904. I am of opinion that in wet years, with heavy rainfall, impurities are discharged into drinking waters, such as those described above, in more minute and dilute quantities, which pass off without producing disease. In dry seasons these impurities, derived from sewage, &c., remain longer on the surface, become more concentrated, and when a wet period ensues,

they are washed into these open supplies in a more potent and dangerous form. The rainfall of 1904 was 35·23 inches, and was much less than that of 1903, which amounted to 52·98 inches—nearly 18 inches short of the previous year. This is the only explanation I can offer for the outbreak in 1904, and the complete absence of Typhoid Fever in 1903, in a country district, in which the same conditions were, with the one exception of rainfall, perfectly identical.

Building has been almost at a standstill; only three newly-built houses have been occupied during 1904.

The Factories and Workshops in your district, are in fair sanitary condition. There are six workshops, which include two bakehouses. They are clean, and comply with the requirements of the Act.

I append to this Report the usual Returns for the Local Government Board and County Council, also the Inspector's account of sanitary work completed during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**JOSEPH LAWSON, M.B., &c.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

The Todmorden Rural District Council.

TABLE I.—FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Popula- tion esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.					Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public In- stitutions in the District.			Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1894	4,800	95	19.7	11	115.7	69	14.3					
1895	4,800	116	24.1	13	112.0	76	15.8					
1896	4,850	113	23.2	12	106.1	73	15.0					
1897	4,900	141	28.7	15	106.3	84	17.1					
1898	5,000	107	21.4	15	140.1	85	17.0					
1899	5,100	134	26.2	15	111.9	61	11.9					
1900	5,200	107	20.5	14	130.8	95	18.2					
1901	5,094	93	18.2	14	150.5	64	12.5			7	71	13.9
1902	5,600	112	20.0	15	133.9	80	14.2			8	88	15.7
1903	5,700	115	20.1	20	173.9	99	17.3			4	103	18.0
Averages for years 1894--'03	5,104	113	22.2	14	128.1	78	15.3					
1904	5,800	109	18.7	9	82.5	66	11.3			7	73	12.5

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) — 15288 Acres.  
 Total population at all ages.....5,094  
 Number of inhabited houses .....1,269 } At Census of 1901.  
 Average number of persons per house..... 4

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Todmorden Union  
 Workhouse, Fielden Hospital, Sourhall Hospital, and Halifax Infirmary.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.



TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Undr 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upw'rds	
Smallpox.....	14	0	0	5	2	7	0	14
Cholera .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Membranous Croup.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas .....	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Scarlet Fever.....	44	0	12	31	1	0	0	20
Typhus Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .....	17	0	1	9	1	6	0	17
Relapsing Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever .....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plague .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals .....	79	0	13	45	4	16	1	51

Isolation Hospital—Fielden and Sourhall Hospitals.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages	Undr 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upw'rds
Smallpox.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever .....	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	7	2	5	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .....	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Epidemic Influenza.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis .....	6	0	0	0	1	4	1
Other Tubercular Diseases .....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	4	0	0	0	0	3	1
Bronchitis .....	4	1	0	0	0	1	2
Pneumonia.....	5	1	0	0	0	3	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heart Disease .....	4	0	0	0	0	3	1
Accidents .....	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Suicides .....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
All other Causes .....	33	3	3	1	2	5	19
All Causes .....	73	9	8	4	3	23	26



**TABLE C, 1904.****TODMORDEN RURAL COUNCIL SANITARY DISTRICT.**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—JOSEPH LAWSON, M.B.**

Salary £40.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR—MR. EMMETT SMITH, Assoc. R.S.T.**

Salary £45.

What other position does the Sanitary Inspector fill ?—None.

**WATER SUPPLY—**

Quality ?—Generally good. Action on Lead ?—None reported.

Any extensions or change during 1904 ?—No.

Any inadequacy in any part ?—Water scarce in dry summers, mainly private supplies.

**SEWERAGE—**

Is the district systematically sewered ?—No. Is rainfall from roads excluded ?—No.

Extensions or Improvements during 1904 ?—None.

Any inadequacy, and where ?—None.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL—**

System adopted ?—Precipitation for Heptonstall. Any extensions in 1904 ?—No.

Any complaint in neighbourhood of sewage works ?—Yes.

**SCAVENGING—**

Are the privy-middens, ash-places, etc., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants ?—Sanitary Staff in Parish of Heptonstall.

**ADOPTIVE ACTS—**

Acts adopted during 1904 (or parts) ?—No.

Any diseases added to Notification Schedule, e.g., Measles, Chicken-pox, &c. ?—No.

Any system of voluntary notification of Phthisis ?—No.

**BYE-LAWS—**

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1904 ?—(a) Under the Public Health Act, 1875 ?—No. (b) Under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 ?—No.

## REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &amp;C.

- Common Lodging Houses ?—None.
- Canal Boats ?—80. Fair condition.
- Slaughter Houses ?—3. Fair condition.
- Cowsheds ?—70. Fair condition.
- Offensive Trades ?—1, Tripe Boiling. Fair condition.

## COWSHEDS—

- Give date of Regulations in force under D.C.M. Order ?—September 21st, 1900.
- Any special inspection made during 1904 ?—No.
- Any action taken by outside authorities, e.g., under 'Milk Clauses' concerning milk supplied from this district ?—No.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

- What disinfecting apparatus is available ?—Hebden Bridge Disinfecter.
- How are dwellings disinfected ?—Sulphur fumigation.
- Any placards or handbills issued during 1904 ?—No.

## SCHOOLS—

- No. closed during 1904 on account of sickness ?—None.
- Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school life during 1904 ?—None.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—

- No. of Workshops in the district, as per Register ?—6. No. of inspections made during 1904 ?—6. Legal proceedings ?—None.
- No. of Bakehouses included in above ?—2. No. of underground Bakehouses in district ?—None.
- No. of Domestic Workshops in above ?—None. No. of Domestic Factories in district ?—None.
- No. of Lists of Outworkers received ?—None.
- Any action as to unwholesome or infected Outworkers' premises ?—No.

## DWELLINGS—

- Number of houses built during 1904 ?—2. General character ?—Villas.
- Any houses unfit for habitation ?—No.
- Any overcrowding of persons in houses ?—No.
- Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts ?—No.
- Is house-to-house inspection systematically made ?—No. Are records kept ?—No.

## NUISANCES—

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1903 ?—2. At close of 1904 ?—None. Reported during 1904 ?—86. Abated during 1904 ?—88.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1904 ?—8.

Total number of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings ?—None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1904 ?—3.

No. of Sink wastes trapped during 1904 ?—3.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1904 ?—5. Kinds ?—2 W.C.'s and 3 Pails.

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1904 ?—3. Kinds ?—Pails.

## METEOROLOGY—

Mean Temperature for year 1904 ?—46'33. Rainfall 35'23 inches.

## WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ?

Seizures of Unsound Food ?—None. Prosecutions ?—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts ?—None. Prosecutions ?—None.

Has there been any poisoning during 1904 attributable to—  
Arsenical beer ?—None ; Ptomaines ?—None : Lead-contaminated water ?—None.

River Pollution ?—Notices served.

Smoke observations taken ?—None. Legal Notices ?—None  
Summonses ?—None.

Burial Grounds—Number in district ?—5. Any need for (a) extension ?—No. (b) Closure ?—No.

Mortuaries—Number in district (a) for accidents ?—None.  
(b) Other ?—None.

## BIRTHS—

Males 57. Females 52 ; total 109.

Number illegitimate, included in above ?—7.

Number of Still Births (not included) ?—None.

## DEATHS—

(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the district, without any correction ?—66.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated ?—Males 4, Females 3 ; total 73.

Number uncertified, included in the above ?—1.

# Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work, &c.,

Completed in the year ending December 31st. 1904.

31 Complaints received during the year.

970 Inspections made.

27 Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises.

65 Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed and Disinfected.

5 New House Drains laid.

21 House Drains Repaired and Cleansed.

3 House Drains Trapped and Disconnected.

3250 Privies or Water Closets Cleansed, &c.

5 New Privies or Water Closets Provided.

37 Privies or Water Closets Repaired.

2 New Ash Pits Provided.

320 Removals of Accumulations of Ashes and other Refuse.

70 Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected.

27 Other Nuisances Abated.

51 Patients Removed to Infectious Hospitals.

Signed,

**EMMETT SMITH, Assoc. R.S.I.,**

Nuisance Inspector.